

REMARKS

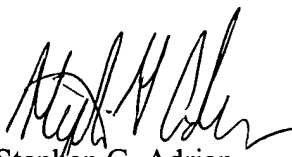
The abstract, specification and claims are amended to correct translational errors in syntax. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, on page 6, lines 20-23. A marked-up version of the changes made by the present amendment is attached hereto as **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

Prompt and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully Submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

IN THE ABSTRACT:

The Abstract has been amended as follows:

A water-based pigment dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group, characterized in that the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (pigment/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1, the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (cross-linking agent/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 1/ 100 to 50/100; a process for preparing the same; and a water-based ink containing the same. The water-based pigment dispersion shows excellent light resistance, water resistance, alkali resistance, solvent resistance and stability during the passage of time at the same time.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at page 5, line 2 has been amended as follows:

The present invention relates to a water-based pigment dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group, characterized in that the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (pigment/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1, the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (cross-linking agent/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 1/100 to 50/100;

a process for preparing the above water-based pigment dispersion characterized in that the process comprises

- (1) a step for predispersing a pigment and [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group to give a mixture,
- (2) a step for treating the mixture by a dispersing machine and dispersing the pigment with the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group to give a dispersion,
- (3) a step for cross-linking the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group in the dispersion with a cross-linking agent, and
- (4) a step for adjusting pH of the dispersion containing the pigment and the thermoplastic resin

containing the carboxylic group, which is cross-linked, to alkaline range,
wherein pH of the dispersion at finishing cross-linking reaction is 6.0 to 8.0; and
a water-based ink containing the above water-based pigment dispersion.

Paragraph beginning at page 6, line 6 has been amended as follows:

The water-based pigment dispersion of the present invention is, as mentioned above, a dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (hereinafter sometimes referred to as simply "thermoplastic resin"), the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin (pigment/thermoplastic resin (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1, the thermoplastic resin is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the thermoplastic resin (cross-linking agent/thermoplastic resin (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 1/100 to 50/100.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2 and 8 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A water-based pigment dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing a carboxylic group, characterized in that the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (pigment/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1, the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (cross-linking agent/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 1/100 to 50/100.

2. (Amended) The water-based pigment dispersion of Claim 1, wherein the [thermoplastic resin containing a] water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group is an acrylic resin or a polyurethane, and the thermoplastic resin has number average molecular weight of 2000 to 20000 and acid value of 30 to 300.

8. (Amended) A process for preparing the water-based pigment dispersion of Claim 1, characterized in that the process comprises

- (1) a step for predispersing a pigment and [a thermoplastic resin containing] a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group to give a mixture,
- (2) a step for treating the mixture by a dispersing machine and dispersing the pigment with the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group to give a dispersion,
- (3) a step for cross-linking the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group in the dispersion with a cross-linking agent, and
- (4) a step for adjusting pH of the dispersion containing the pigment and the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group, which is cross-linked, to alkaline range, wherein pH of the dispersion at finishing cross-linking reaction is 6.0 to 8.0.